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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 ACDA-07

EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /083 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 2090
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17031

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EWWT, IN, BG
SUBJ: FARAKKA RESOLUTION

1. DURING A DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 23 WITH DUBS, ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY VELLODI EXPRESSED OPTIMISM REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR WORKING OUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE FARAKKA ISSUE IN SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE. VELLODI, WHO HAS SPOKEN TO FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA TWICE IN THE PAST TWO DAYS BUT NOT WITHIN THE PAST TWELVE HOURS, SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT INDIA "WITH THE HELP OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" COULD WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BANGLADESHES ON A CONSESSUS STATEMENT WHICH WOULD (1) STATE THE BASIC CONCEPT OF BILATERALISM; (2) "BUT PROVIDE SOMETHING ELSE ALSO FOR BANGLADESH"; AND (3) INDICATE AGREEMENT FOR RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL TALKS. VELLODI SAID ONE OR TWO ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IN NEW YORK WAS OPTIMISTIC.

2. SEPARATING THE SHORT TERM FROM THE LONG TERM
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FARRAKKA PROBLEM, VELLODI TOLD DUBS THAT INDIA COULD

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NOT REPEAT NOT OFFER MORE THAN A 50-50 DIVISION OF
DRY SEASON WATER SUPPLY AT THE BORDER DURING THE
IMMEDIATE FUTURE. WHAT WAS NECESSARY WAS NOT JUST A
SHARING OF WATER BUT ALSO A "SHARING OF SACRIFICE".
VELLODI MENTIONED THAT MCNAMARA HAD THOUGHT THIS
REASONABLE. ON THE LONG ERM PROBLEM, VELLODI
MENTIONED THAT BOTH SIDES HAD MADE PROPOSALS AND THE
GOI HAD SUGGESTED EXAMINING THEM, INCLUDING THEIR
TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY. HE REPORTED THAT MCNAMARA HAD
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HELPING ON FARAKKA. VELLODI
SAID THAT THE SHORT TERM PROBLEM MUST BE SORTED OUT
BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN BUT INDIA DOES REPEAT
DOES CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF BANK HELP. WITH THE
LONG ERM PROBLEM. HE SAID IT WAS "NOT UNLIKELY"
REPEAT "NOT UNLIKELY" THAT BANGLADESH AND INDIA
MIGHT BOTH ASK FOR BANK ASSISTANCE SINCE A LONG TERM
SOLUTION WULD BE COSTLY. VELLODI ENDED HIS COMMENTS
SAYING THAT THE CONSENSUS STATEMENT IN NEW YORK
WOULD REFLECT "THESE THINGS" IN SOME WAY.

3. DUBS TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE OCCASIONAL
INDICATIONS OF GOI DOUBTS REGARDING US HOLICY TOWARDS
BANGLADESH AND ASSURED VELLODI THAT OUR INTERESTS WERE
ONLY HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC. FUTURE STABILITY,
DUBS SAID, DEPENDED ON THE SOLUTION OF HUMAN AND
DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. DUBS TOLD VELLODI THE US WILL
RESPOND TO BANGLADESH'S REQUEST FOR ARMS ONLY IN
MODEST WASY AND CONCENTRATE ON ITEMS FOR INTERNAL
SECURITY, SUCH AS HELICOPTERS AND SMALL ARMS AND
AMMUNITION THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. HE CONCLUDED
BY SAYING THAT WE HAVE DONE EVERYTHING WE CAN TO
URGE BANGLADESH TO LIVE IN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH
INDIA. VELLODI EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR DUBS'
REMARKS, INDICATING THAT INDIA HAD A VITAL INTEREST
IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO BANGLADESH.

4. VELLODI'S REMARKS ARE THE FIRST INDICATION THE
EMBASSY HAS HAD OF ANY INDIAN RECEPTIVITY TO BANK
PARTICIPATION IN A LONG TERM FARAKKA SETTLEMENT.
THE INDIAN FORMULA FOR THIS -- BILATERAL AGREEMENT
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LEAD NG TO A REQUEST FOR BANK ASSISTANCE -- MY NOT
BE WHAT BANGLADESH HAS IN MIND BUT IT MAY OPEN UP
MORE OPTIONS FOR ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT.
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